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Comment Received From: Cynda Ormsby-Johnson

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Compass Energy Project is in a Wildfire Zone

Hello,

I am a resident of Laguna Niguel and live 2 blocks from the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project. I have lived in the neighborhood since 2010 and daily enjoy walking on the Colinas Bluff Trail that connects the neighborhoods in Laguna Heights along the ridge line. The proposed project seeks to erect acreage of storage containers containing lithium batteries in the valley below the trail.

Besides the eyesore that the storage containers would bring to the beautiful California landscape, and the fact that many hawks, coyotes and other wildlife live in the hills and valley, the proposed location is a fire zone. I am not being theoretical nor hyperbolic in calling it a fire zone, as we had a major fire in the valley in 2016. A few weeks after the fire, my band took some photos in the valley because we thought the ashy, scorched landscape had a desolate feel which would look visually interesting. I have attached a few of the photos, but unfortunately do not have a super-wide angle in which to see the scope of the desolation.

Visuals aside, the hills, valley and trail are adjacent to several neighborhoods of single family homes, apartments, condos and 55+ living. The risk to peoples' homes and ultimately their lives is evidenced in the area's previous fire. Luckily that day the wind was blowing towards the freeway and not towards peoples' homes. I don't have to tell you that a shift in the wind could have caused the day to unfold very differently.

Additionally, fire fighters may not be prepared to extinguish fires caused by lithium batteries since these fires cannot be extinguished with water. The Orange County Fire Department is equipped with helicopters that drop products on fires from above. However, if there were not enough product or there was a miscommunication and fire fighters were not adequately informed the area contained lithium batteries and they used water, the batteries could explode and cause much greater damage.

For the safety of the lives of humans and animals, as well as the potential for damage to homes and the environment, I ask that the Compass Energy Storage Project be disallowed from moving forward in the current location.

Sincerely, Cynda Ormsby-Johnson

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

